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of the children—Oh! give me a winter night, a turf fire, a rasher of bacon, and a mealy potatoe.

"Now, gentlemen, it is a big lie that the Irish people are discontented with their potatoe. True, they want something along with them—and *potatoes and point* are very dry fare. But even with nothing but the potatoe, who for a moment would compare the moral habits, the female chastity, the conjugal fidelity, the mutual dependence that exist in an Irish cabin, where scarcely any thing but potatoe are eaten, with the moral laxity that is engendered in the lofts of an English manufactory. Why, gentlemen, an Irishman, sooner than let his aged father or mother drag out the remainder of their days in a workhouse, would give, not the *half*, but the *whole* of his last potatoe to keep them at his own fire side.

"But, gentlemen, I am not arguing for the exclusive use of the potatoe. Let the people be encouraged to use other food in the spring and summer seasons—let landlords be kind and considerate, so that while they live they would let live—let rents be lowered—let the potatoe have a long *vacation*—and I fearlessly assert that the day would (or should) be kept as a joyful anniversary in which the first potatoe was set in Irish soil. It is a root which has reared millions of sound men—men fit to fight the battles of their king and country over sea and land, and exult the red cross flag of the British monarch in every clime and on every shore. Gentlemen, I cannot for a moment doubt but that you will give a verdict of acquittal for my client, who, as base insinuations have been thrown out respecting his arrival in our country, I beg leave to assure you is most anxious to inform you that his name is not derived from the Spanish word, *batata*, but was given to him in merry Ireland, and is thus declined—pot-eat-O's—that is what the O's—the O'Murphy and the O'Toole eat out of—a Pot!"

Here the opium ceased to operate—my revivie was disturbed by the heavy breathings of my worthy wife, who was indeed rapidly approaching that trumpeting state called a *snore*; and trial, judge, jury, verdict, all vanished, "like the baseless fabric of a vision, leaving not a wreck behind."

I am, Sir, yours to command,

TERENCE O'TOOLE.

#### CURRAN AND THE MILLER'S DOG.

Curran told me, with infinite humour, of an adventure between him and a mastiff, when he was a boy. He had heard somebody say, that any person throwing the skirts of his coat over his head, stooping low, holding out his arms, and creeping along backward, might frighten the fiercest dog, and put him to flight. He accordingly made the attempt on a miller's animal in the neighbourhood, who *would never let the boys rob the orchard*; but found to his sorrow that he had a dog to deal with who did not care which end of a boy went foremost, so as he could get a bite out of it. "I pursued the instructions," said Curran;—"and as I had no eyes save those in front, fancied the mastiff was in full retreat: but I was confoundedly mistaken; for at the very moment I thought myself victorious, the enemy attacked my rear, and having got a reasonably good mouthful out of it, was fully prepared to take another before I was rescued."—*Barrington's Sketches.*

#### THE POOR COLONIES OF HOLLAND.

It is painful to be perpetually recurring to the *miseries* of Ireland: yet painful as it is, the subject must at times be adverted to. All classes and all creeds, both of religion and politics, have proposed their various remedies for the cure of the multiplied diseases which have afflicted a country so *really* capable of being rendered a fine and fertile land—we do not intend to suggest any thing either new or wonderful, but simply to bring before the attention of our readers what has been done on the Continent for the amelioration of the condition of the working classes.

A BENEVOLENT SOCIETY was established in Holland in the year 1818, with twenty thousand members, paying a penny a week. In Fredericks-Oord the experiment was made with a success so delightful and complete, that the government and the inhabitants of Holland generally called for the extension of the scheme, and viewed it as one of the best methods of ameliorating the condition of the poor. Now a scheme may succeed in one country, and fail in another: and although the success of the Dutch Benevolent Society may well encourage the formation of a British one, the experiment ought to be made with caution and care. We paid two successive visits to the establishment called Orliston, (about

twelve miles from Glasgow in Scotland,) which was founded somewhat upon Mr. Owen's plan; and whatever opinion may be entertained by the writer about the plans and principles of the New Lanark philanthropist, it was certainly a vexatious thing to see many thousand pounds actually wasted and thrown away, by neglect, mismanagement, and stupidity, and an opportunity lost of making an experiment on a large scale, whether co-operation was or was not available by numbers of the labouring classes. The following account of the Poor Colonies of Holland is extracted from a book published by a member of the Highland Society of Scotland:

"The funds which the Society derives from contributions, gifts, and other sources, are employed solely and exclusively for the purpose of founding agricultural colonies, where the indigent are relieved from want, by means of their own labour; and where the young and ignorant are instructed, and ultimately returned to that intercourse with the world, for which they had become unfit, in a condition to provide for their own wants, and to yield obedience to the laws.

"The rules of the society were sanctioned by the king of Holland, and circulated by the government authorities; twenty thousand individuals became members at a penny a week; and an annual revenue was raised, for the first experiment, of 70,000 florins (12 florins make £1. sterling) and 26,000 yards of cloth.

"The Society being thus constituted, and its finances in such a condition as to inspire the public with confidence in its operations, the manor of Westerbeeck-Sloot was bought at the price of 56,000 florins. This estate, which the Society had chosen for their first experiment, is situated on the confines of the provinces of Drenth, Frise and Overysse, and at a short distance to the north-east of the small town of Steenwyk. The 600 morgen, (a morgen is about one and two-thirds of an English statute acre,) of which it consists, were, with the exception, of 50 or 60, covered only with a stunted heather and mossy earth. A more unpromising subject for the labours of the agriculturist could scarcely have been selected; but the very bleakness and desolation of its surface, and the comparatively feeble powers of production which existed in its soil, were the reasons why these philanthropists of Holland resolved to select it for their first attempt. It was justly supposed that, if the experiment could succeed in such unfavourable circumstances, and under the unskilful superintendence connected with every commencement, no doubt could exist regarding the success which would attend the Society in all their other efforts.

"The 50 or 60 morgen already cultivated, were let to tenants; and 150 morgen of the waste and desert heath were set apart for the establishment of the first colony, which was called Fredericks-Oord, from the prince Frederick, who had so nobly undertaken to preside over their philanthropic exertions.

"After deepening the river Aa, and making such roads as were sufficient to connect this wilderness with the adjacent country, a warehouse, a school, two manufacturing halls, and 52 farm-houses, were erected for the reception of 52 families of destitute poor, who took possession on the 1st November, 1818."

The colonists were all required, on their arrival, to sign and to promise to obey, various rules which were made for the regulation of the colony, but our limits forbid the transcribing of them. One excellent feature in them is the total abolition of religious distinctions.

"Let us now follow the colonist in his career as a farm servant, and trace the progress by which the cultivation is effected. The land, hitherto subjected to the operations of the Society, consists of a surface of heath and moss-earth resting upon a substratum of sand. The moss varies from six inches to twelve or fifteen feet in thickness, and occasionally presents the appearance of a bog.

"Where the sand is covered with a layer of moss of 10 or 12 inches thick, the first operation is to pare off the heath or coarse surface to the thickness of three or four inches. These turfs are laid in heaps, and the ground is dug to the depth of eighteen inches, and the sand and turf well mixed together. Three-fourths of the turf which have been pared from the surface, are now slowly consumed by means of a moderate heat, and as much as possible without flame. The ashes are spread over the soil, immediately before the sowing of the seed, and are equally distributed over the surface, by means of a light harrow drawn by two men. The remaining fourth of the turf from the surface, is prepared as a compost, by mixing up the produce of a morgen of it with fifteen loads of fresh horse-dung, fifteen loads of cleanings of the roads, and twenty schepels of hot lime. These different ingredients